

# VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Department of Mines Minerals and Energy (DMME) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report for Russell Prater Creek near Haysi in Buchanan and Dickenson Counties, Virginia. This stream was identified on the 1998 303(d) Total Maximum Daily Load Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standard for the Aquatic Life Use - General Standard (benthic).

A public meeting to present the draft Total Maximum Daily Load Report on Russell Prater Creek will be held on **Tuesday, January 11, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.** at Russell Prater Elementary School in Prater, Virginia. Russell Prater Elementary School is located on Route 83 east of Haysi in the community of Prater about 0.5 miles east of intersection of Route 83 and Route 604. [Note: Should the school be closed due to snow on January 11, the meeting will be rescheduled. The rescheduled date will be posted on the DEQ website and on signs in the watershed.]

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report. The Russell Prater Creek TMDL report addresses reductions to Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and sediment in the stream which stress the aquatic organisms. The draft document introduces scenarios to reduce these pollutants so that the stream can meet the water quality standards.

Russell Prater Creek is located in Buchanan and Dickenson Counties east of Haysi, Virginia. The stream flows in an east to west direction. The watershed includes the communities of Vicey, Prater, Greenbrier and the town of Haysi. The impairment includes about 11 miles of Russell Prater Creek from its headwaters at Poplar Gap to its confluence with Russell Fork River in Haysi.

The public comment period will end on **February 11, 2005**. A copy of the draft report is available upon request or can be viewed at the DEQ website:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl/>. Address questions or information requests to Nancy T. Norton, P. E. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Nancy T. Norton, P. E., Department of Environmental Quality, P. O. Box 1688, Abingdon, Virginia 24212-1688, telephone (276) 676-4807, fax (276) 676-4899, or e-mail [ntnorton@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:ntnorton@deq.virginia.gov).